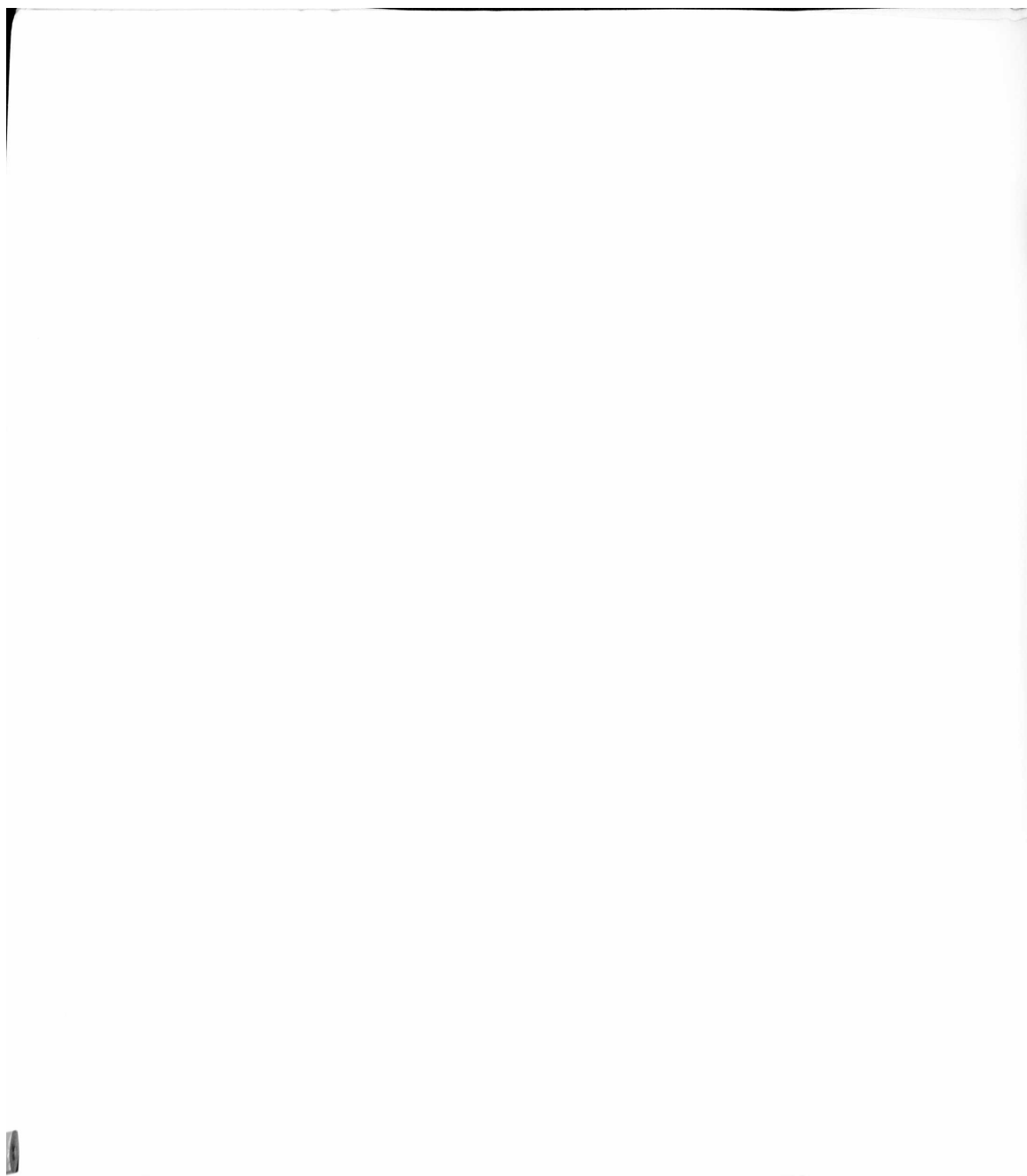


HOLYOKE

AN ARCHITECTURAL PERSPECTIVE







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AN ARCHITECTURAL PERSPECTIVE

BY JOHN L. DICKEY

PUBLICATION SPONSORED BY HOLYOKE SAVINGS BANK

FOR CAROLYN

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FOREWORD

As do most New England industrial cities, the City of Holyoke has many beautiful and dignified buildings representative of the period when great industrial expansion resulted in rapid growth and development.

A tangible record of Holyoke's past and its history can be found in its architecture - architecture of a past era, characterized by a wealth of detail and executed with pride by craftsmen of integrity.

Often, in the course of our day-to-day activities, we become so accustomed to our surroundings that we tend not to really see things around us, and thus miss all that they can tell us.

This book, printed during Holyoke's Centennial year, is an attempt to present some of the beauty and history which exists in Holyoke's buildings, each of which can be seen today . . . with the exception of the Dillon blocks. The subject matter focuses largely upon detail which is representative of the architectural style prevalent during the period when Holyoke saw its greatest development. It is hoped that this publication will challenge some reader to delve more deeply into the story of each building, for each structure is a bit of history in itself.

Photographs which are identified by a □ preceding the caption are further explained by additional historical notes contained in the appendix at the back of the book.

The concept of the book, the photography, layout and design are the work of John Dickey, planner with the Holyoke Redevelopment Authority.





Race Street doorway of the old Parsons Hall building,
corner of Race and Dwight Streets.



□ Upper stories of the business block of Louis J. Rigali, fruit merchant, High Street.

The Caledonians reigned and revelled here in 1874, 189 High Street.

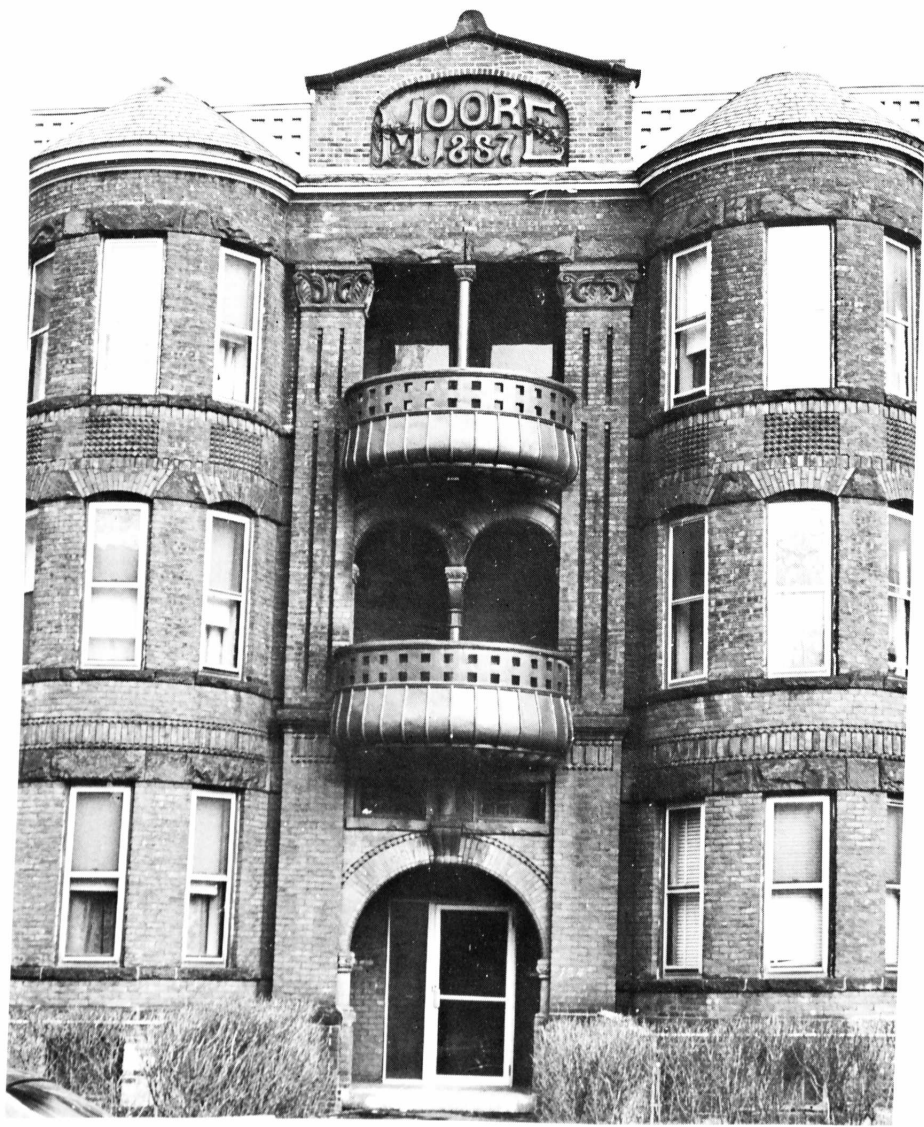






A stone face peers from the cornice of the building at 405-411 High Street.

It was common practice to identify a building with a stone placed on the facade containing the owner's name or the name of the building.





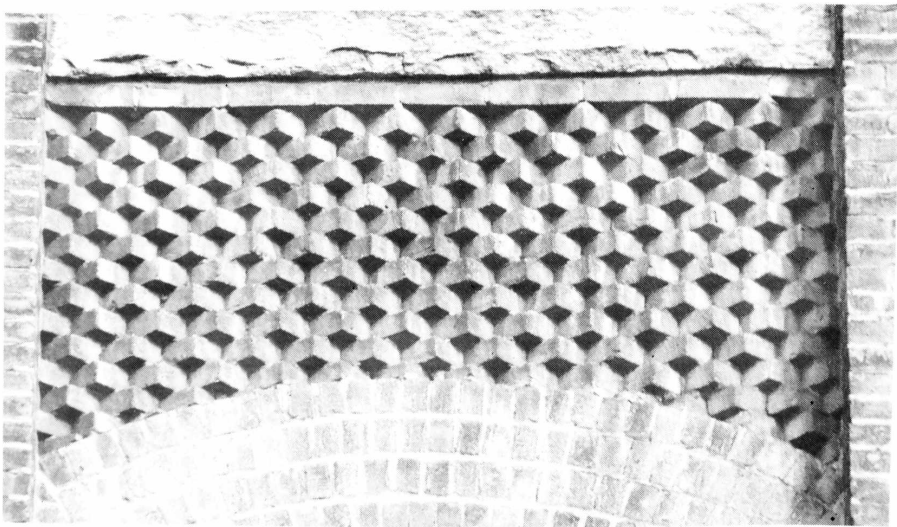
□ Mr. Philander Moore proudly and artistically proclaimed ownership of this Walnut Street apartment block.

Mythical beasts guard the building at 20-22 Main Street.

□ Identification stone on 'Alderman Flats', corner of Beech and Appleton Streets.

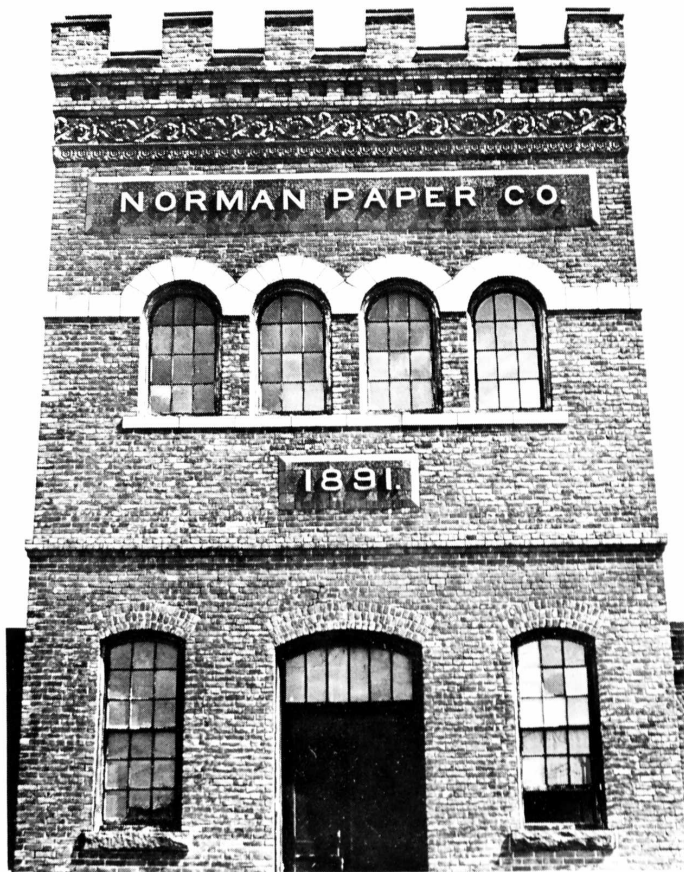


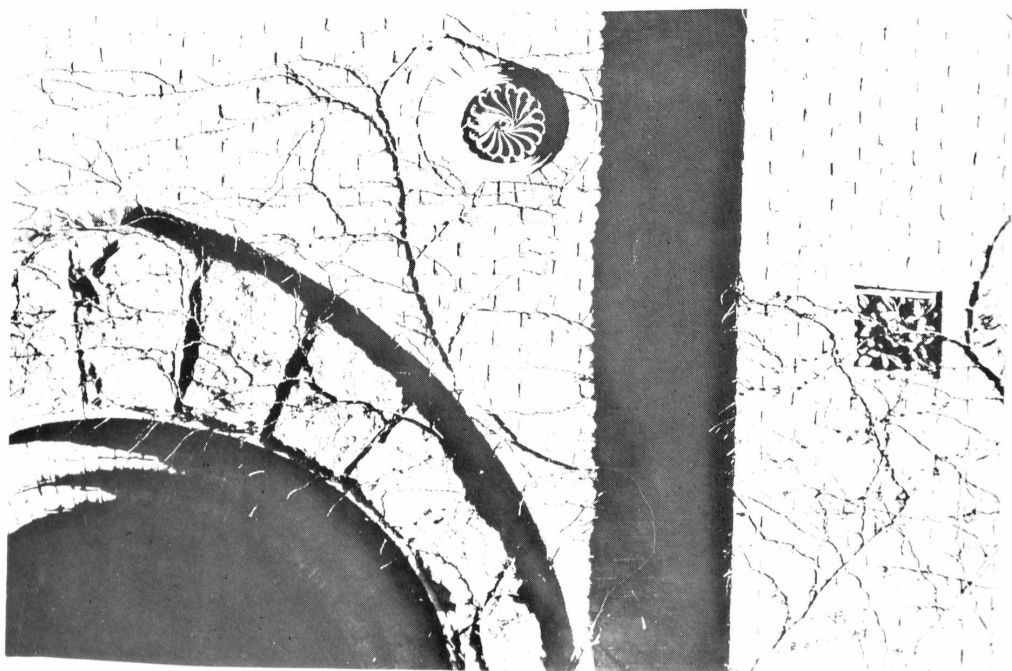




Attention to detail was characteristic even of industrial buildings. This decorative brickwork occurs between the windows of the Merrick Thread Company mill, Appleton Street, 1881.

Tower of the Norman Paper Company, Appleton and Water Streets.





SECOND
BAPTIST CHURCH



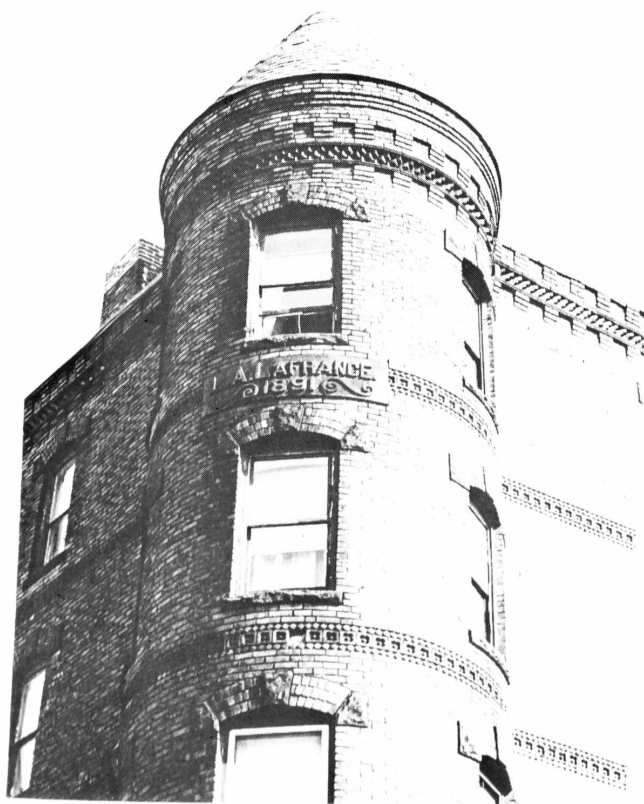
- Sunlight and shadow accent the beauty of the Second Baptist Church on Appleton Street.

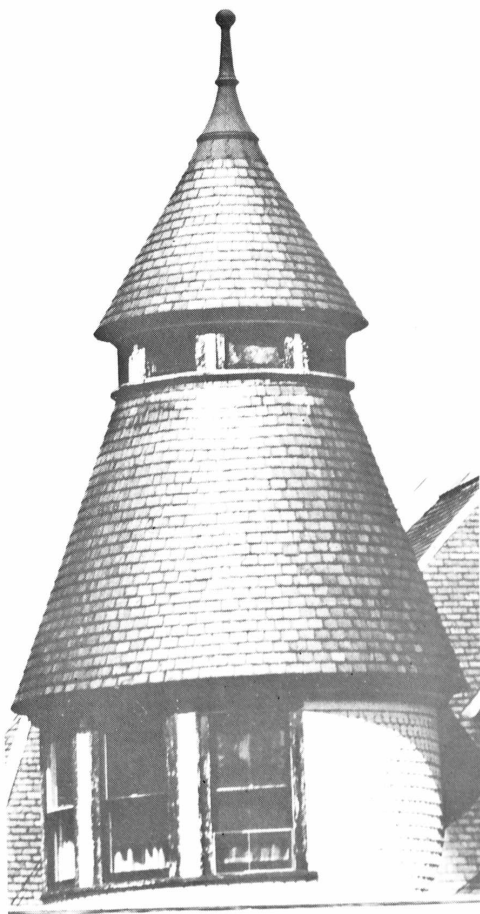
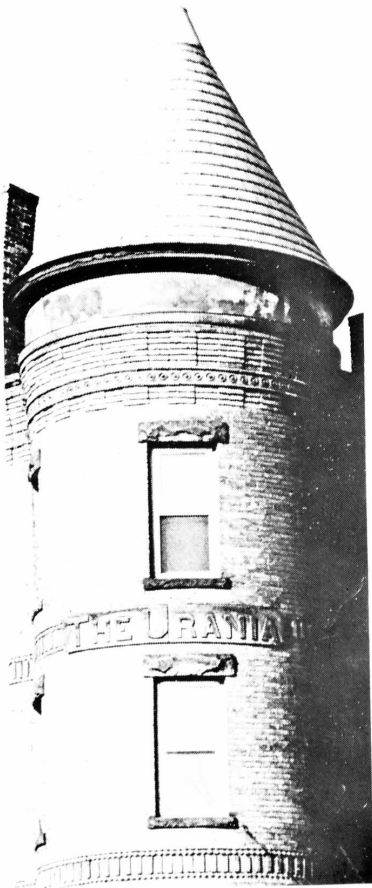


Cornice detail of the Cleary block, High and John Streets.

□ Block built by Anthony Kelley in 1889 combines decorative brick and stonework on the facade. Northeast corner of High and Essex Streets.

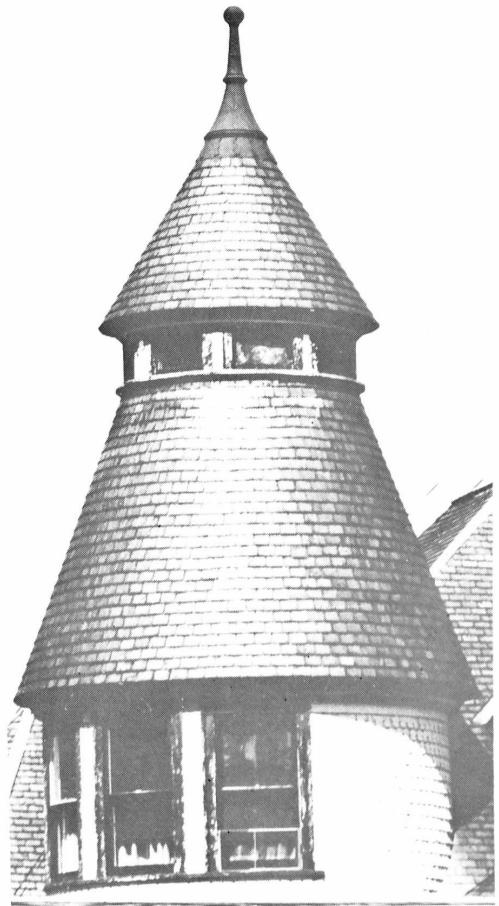
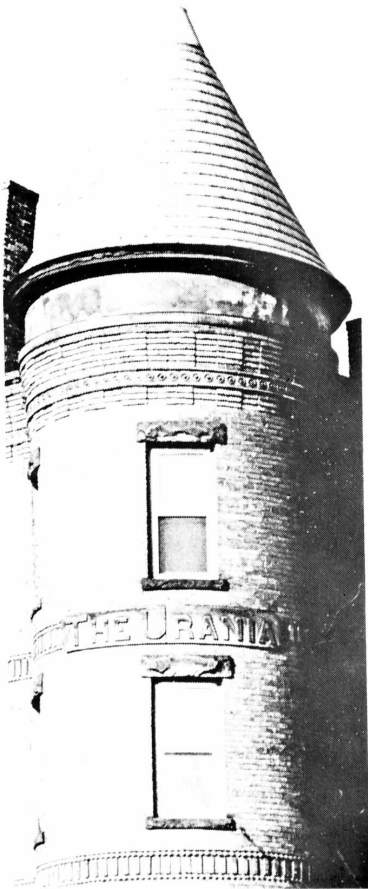






Turrets and cupolas were a common architectural feature of Victorian buildings.
 The Urania, Dwight and Elm Streets, c. 1898.
 Casper Ranger home, Appleton Street, 1890.
 La France block at Bowers and Mosher Streets, 1891.



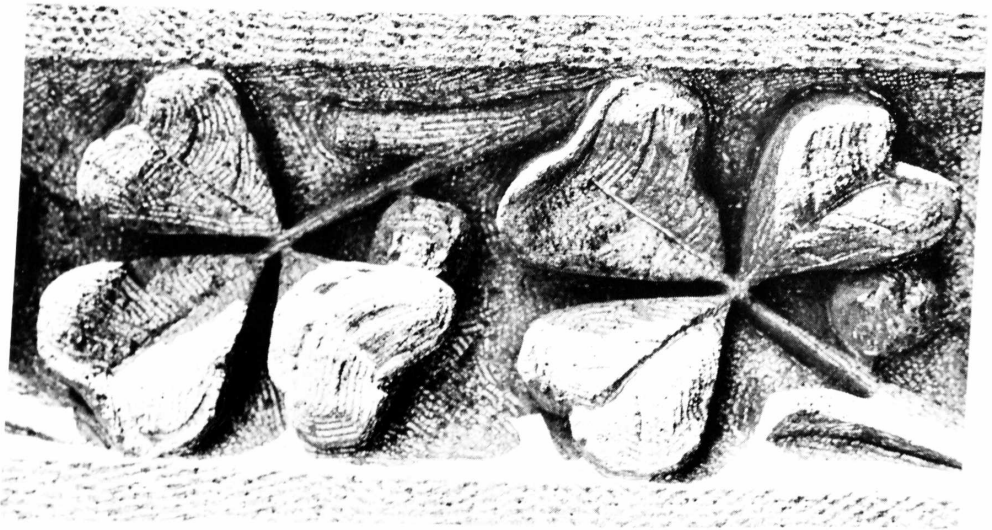
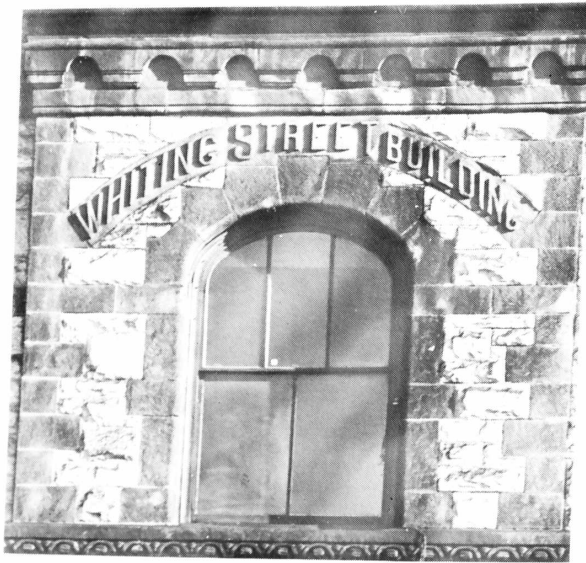


Turrets and cupolas were a common architectural feature of Victorian buildings
 The Urania, Dwight and Elm Streets, c. 1898.
 Casper Ranger home, Appleton Street, 1890.
 La France block at Bowers and Mosher Streets, 1891.

□ Beautiful proportions, an elegant granite facade, and an attention to detail dignify the 1880 Main Street commercial building erected by Whiting Street.









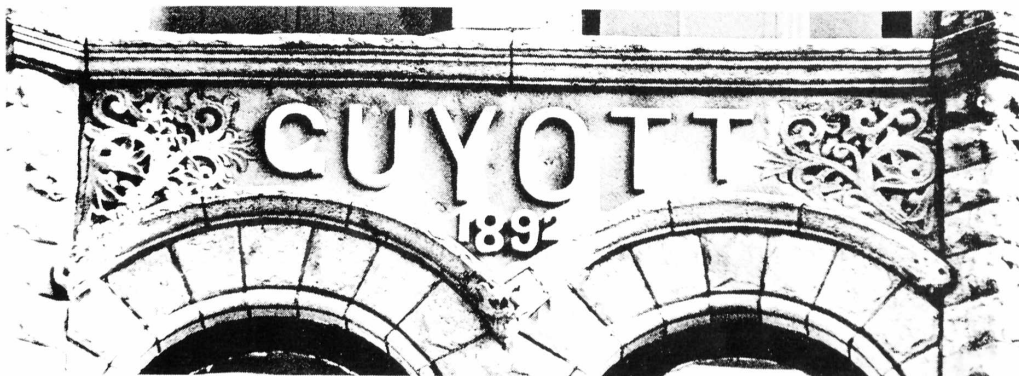
Details from the Whiting Street Building. Note the carved heads framing the doorway.

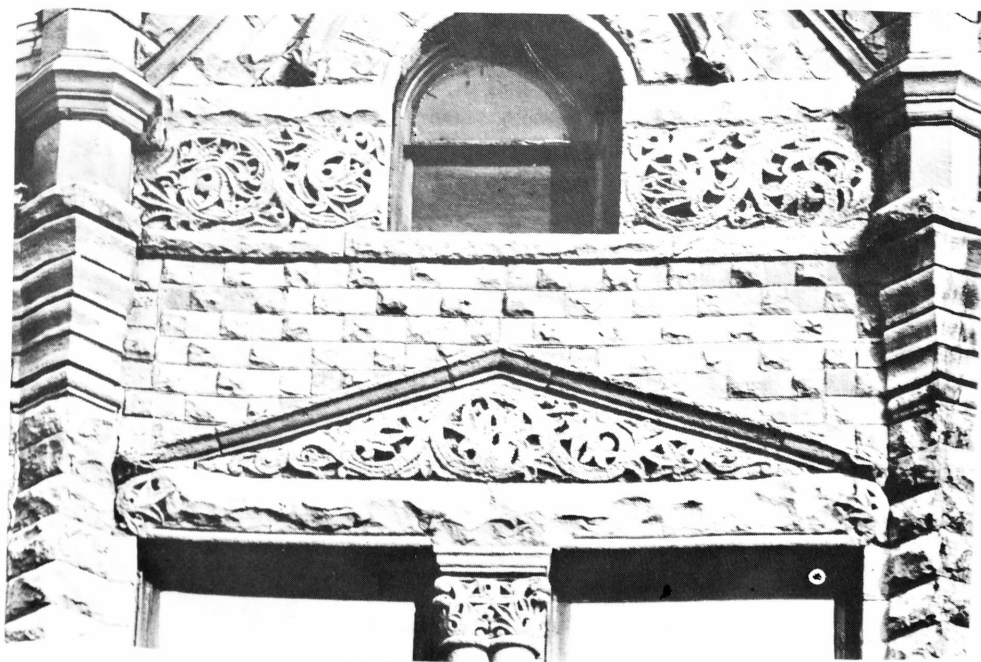




- Business block built by the Guyott Bros., owners also of the adjoining Guyott House hotel. Both structures still stand at High and Division Streets.







The symbolism of the beautiful sandstone carvings on the Guyott Bros. building is a mystery.

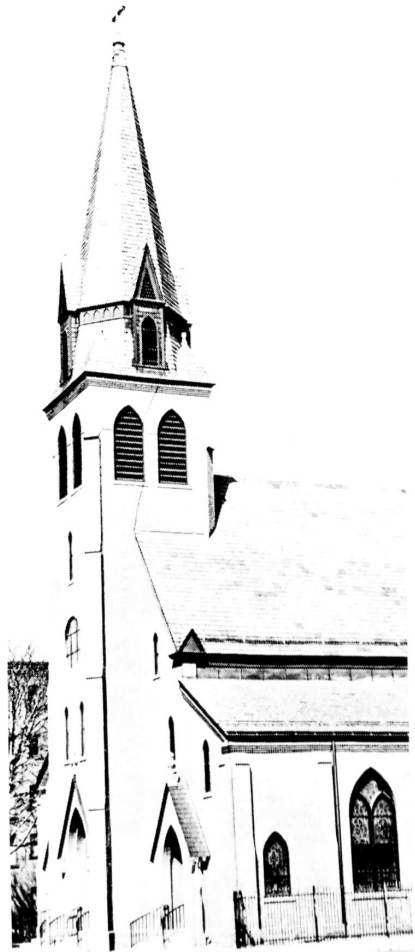


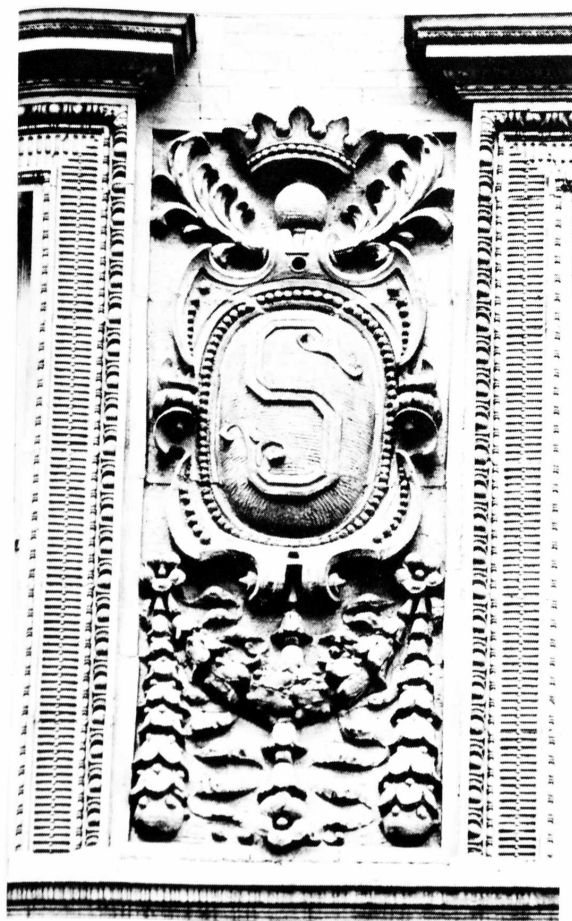


The First Baptist Church, 1880, at the corner of
South and Northampton Streets.



□ Mater Dolorosa Church, corner of
Lyman and Maple Streets, 1901.





□ Monogram from the facade of the Albert Steiger Co. building, High Street, 1899.

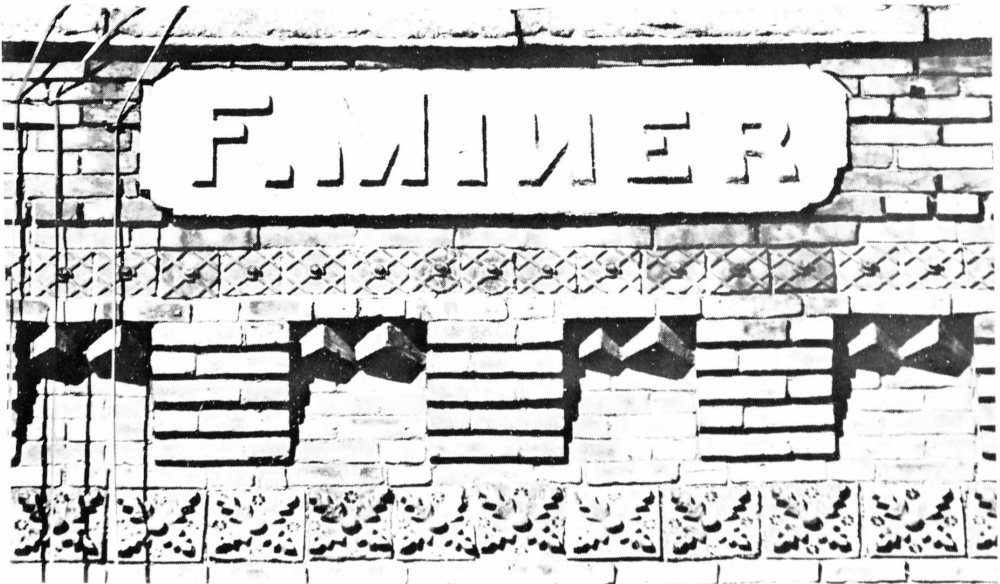
□ At the top of Thomas S. Childs' High Street building.





Contact point for the 'cop on the beat'.

A miner error on Park Street.



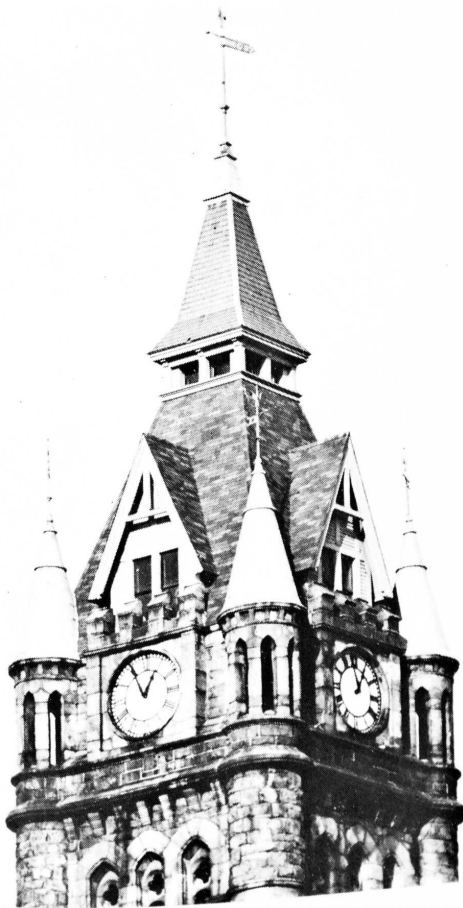




Stone finial atop the Second Baptist Church, Appleton Street.

□ Ornate finial tops the tower of the Appleton Street building now occupied by the Y.M.C.A.



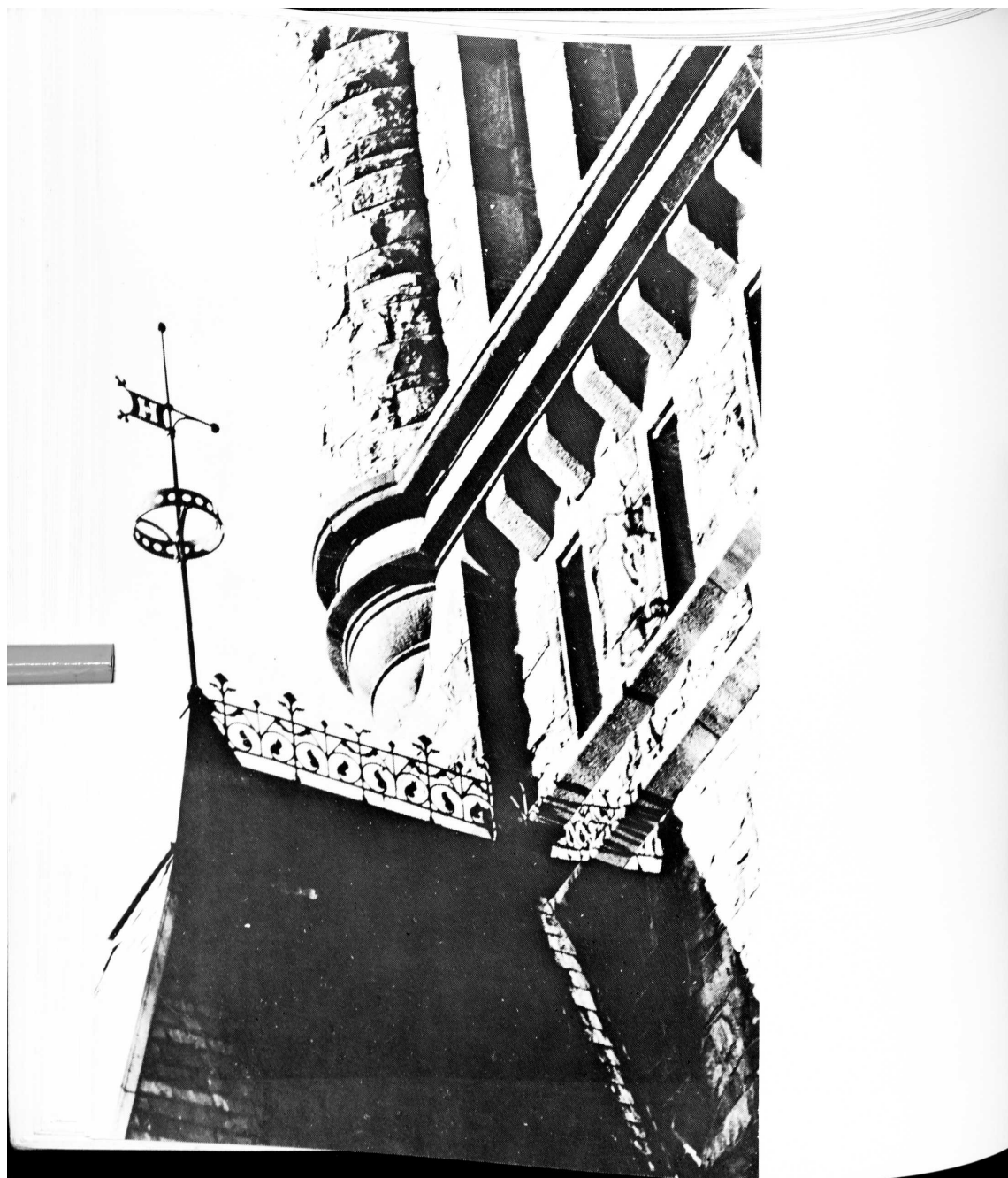


The noblest of Holyoke's structures, a century later, is still the City Hall.



The City Hall's massive granite, heavy slate roof, and cast iron finials may endure for another century!





Almost everyone looks at its tower clock, but most never see these other handsome elevated details.

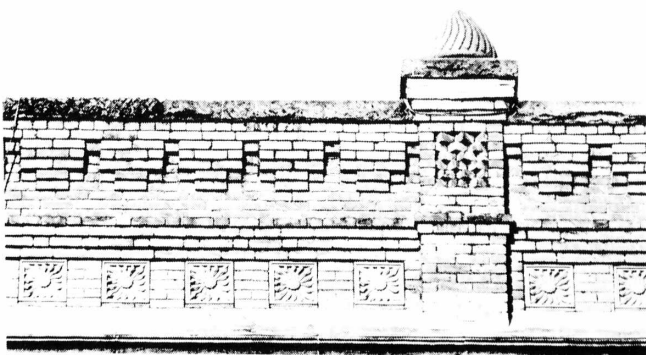






Guardians at the Cabot Street entrance to Wistariahurst, home of William Skinner.





□ The Essex, southwest corner of Essex and Chestnut Streets.
Many elaborate details embellish this apartment block.



□ The Massasoit, northeast corner of Essex and Chestnut Streets, 1890.



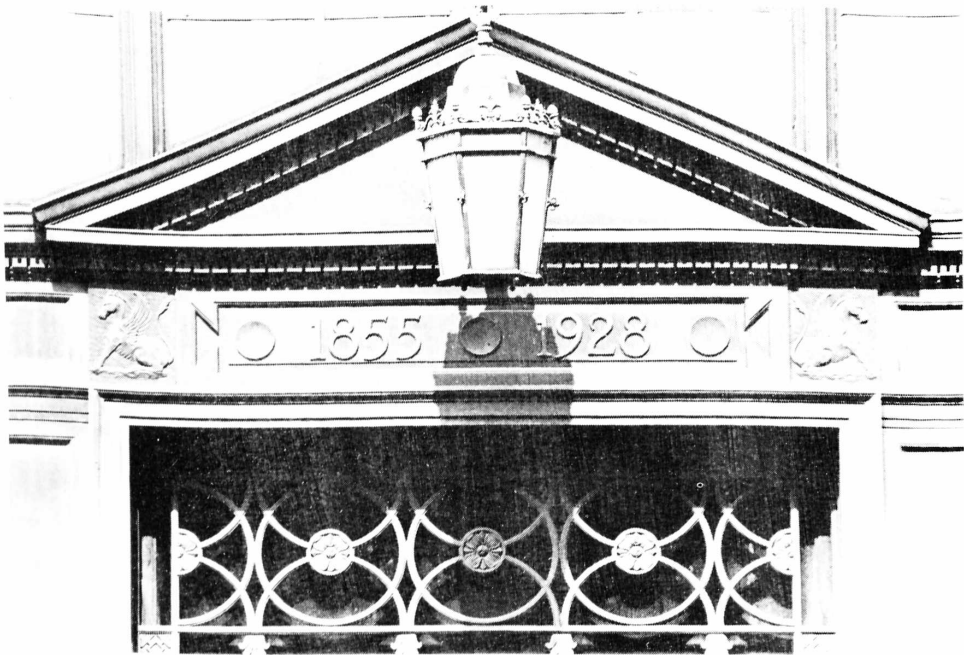
Indian Chief Massasoit, carved detail from the pediment,
nearly hidden by a maze of vines.



This nameplate is alternately revealed and concealed with the seasons.

□ Home of Casper Ranger, Appleton, Sycamore and Suffolk Streets, 1890.





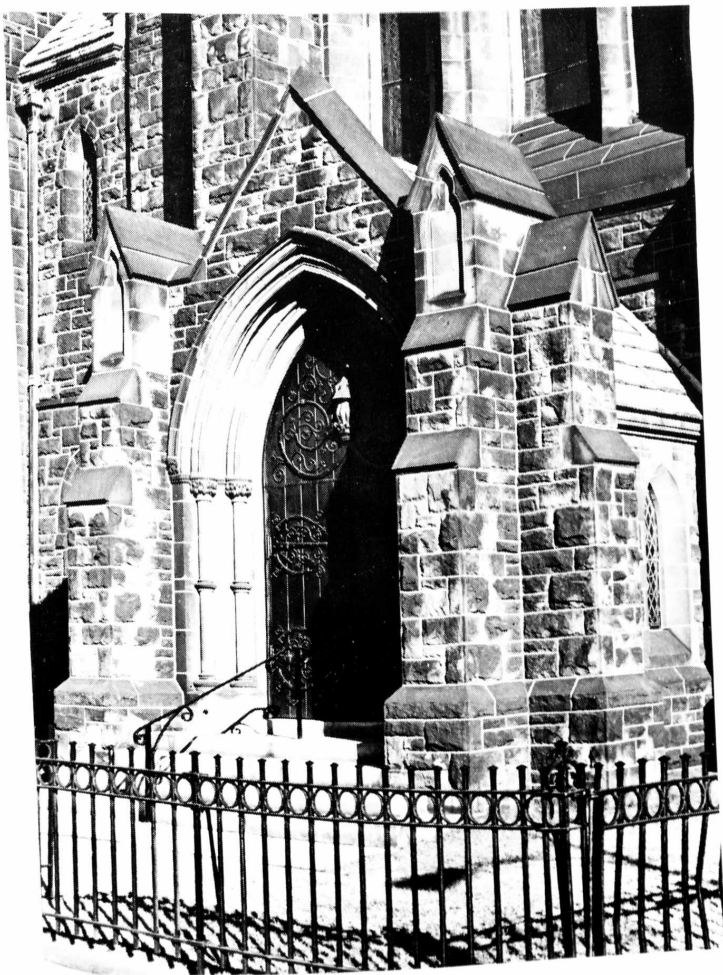
Chestnut Street entrance of Holyoke Savings Bank, built 1928.



Detail and ornamentation on the old Merrick Thread Company mill, Main Street.



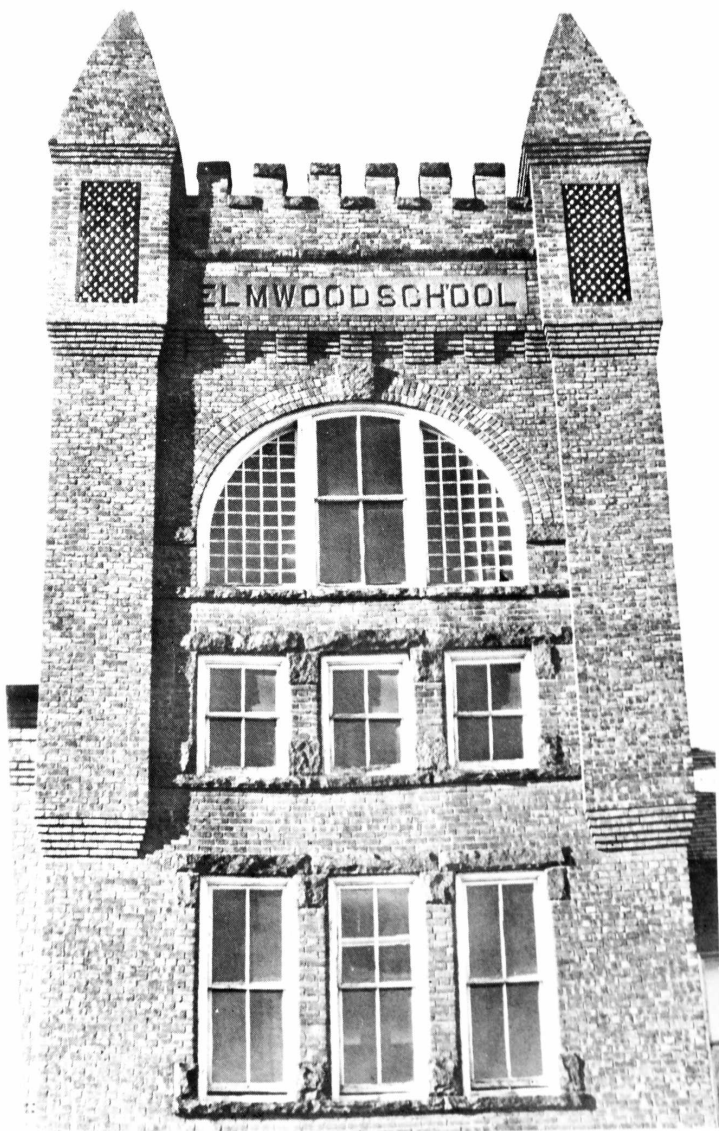
The beautiful Second Congregational Church, Maple, Appleton and High Streets.

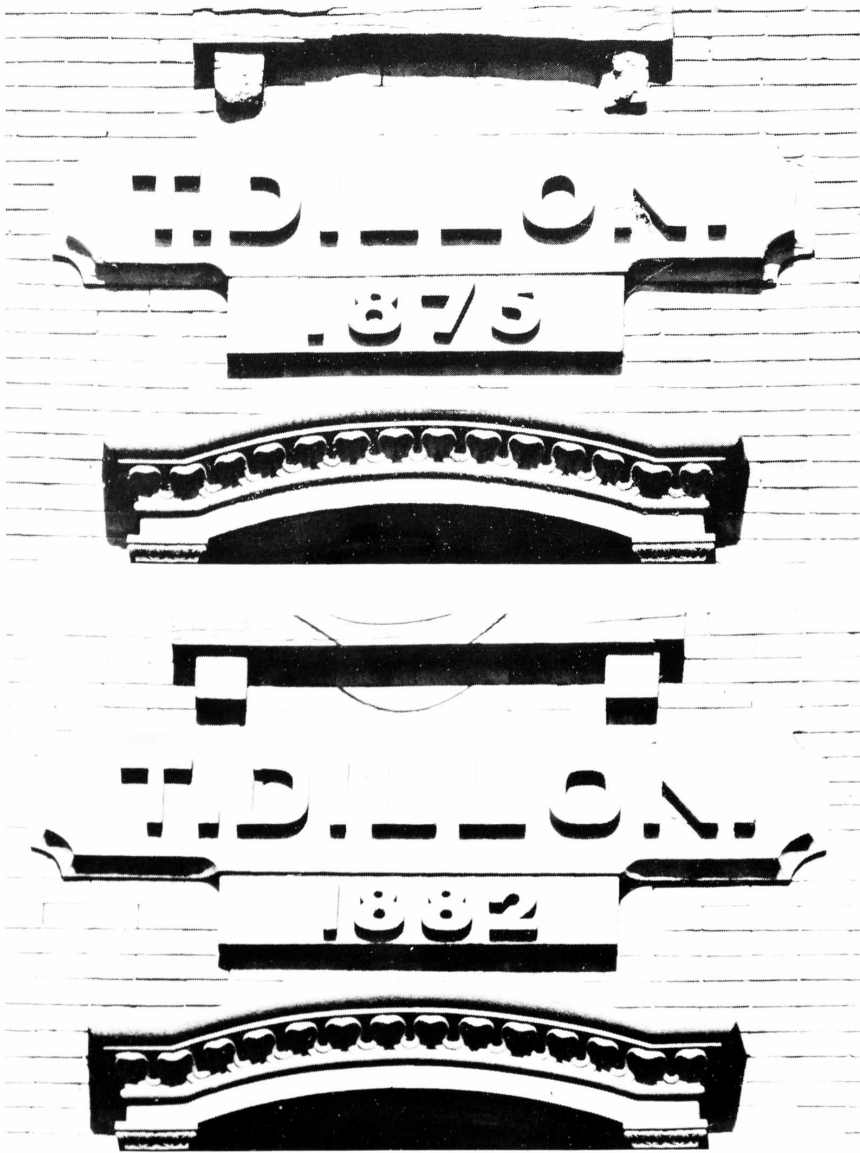


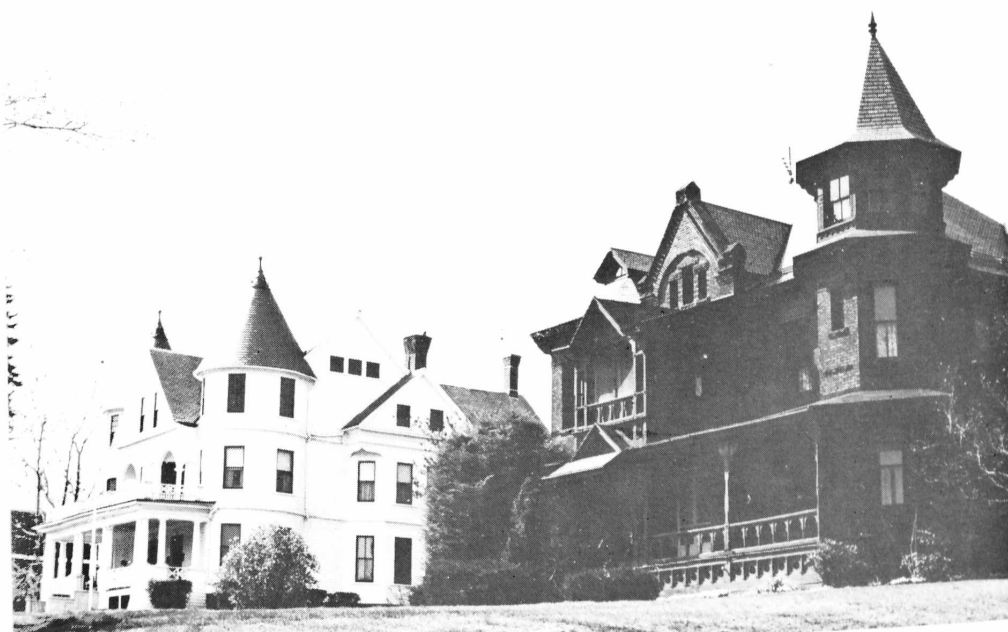


Twin turrets top the Franklin, Maple Street, now the Y.W.C.A.

The tower of the Elmwood School, South Street, 1890.

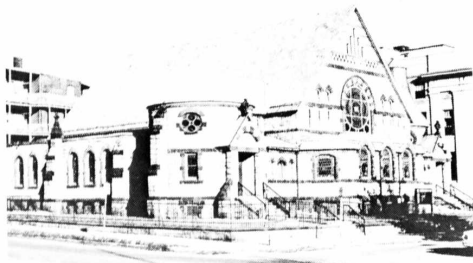
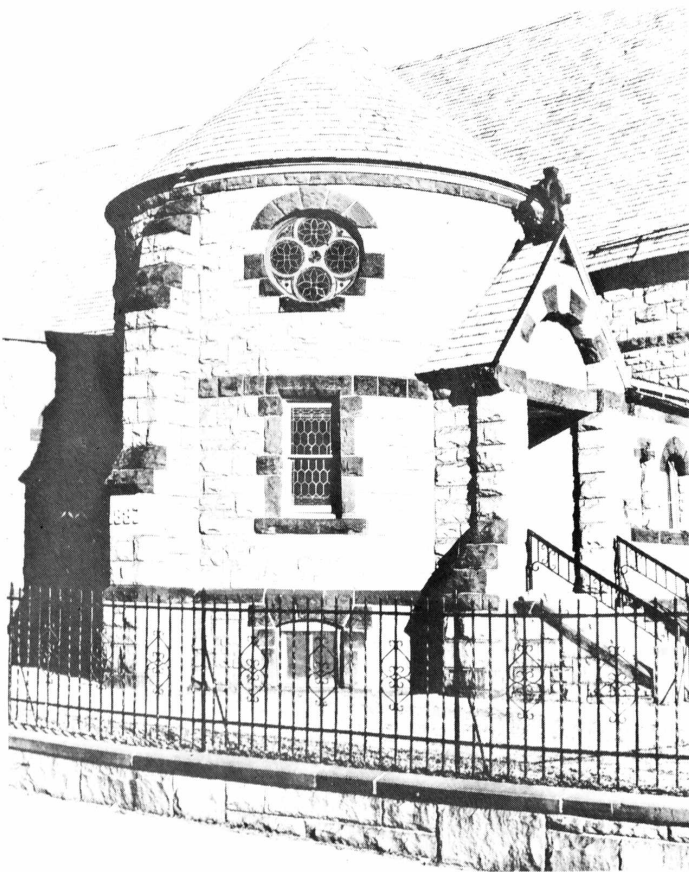






- ☐ Left, 1139 Dwight Street: The double house of Thomas M. Cleary, 1891.
- ☐ Right, 1109 Dwight Street: The home of Michael J. Finn, c. 1893.

☐ Identification stones from the earliest sections of the Dillon block, which stood for many years at the corner of Lyman and Maple Streets.



The First Presbyterian Church,
at Cabot and Chestnut Streets,
has many beautiful architectural features







One of the very few remaining brick sidewalks in the City, Linden Street.

□ Ornate chimney on the Victorian residence built by William E. Syms, corner of Essex and Linden Streets.



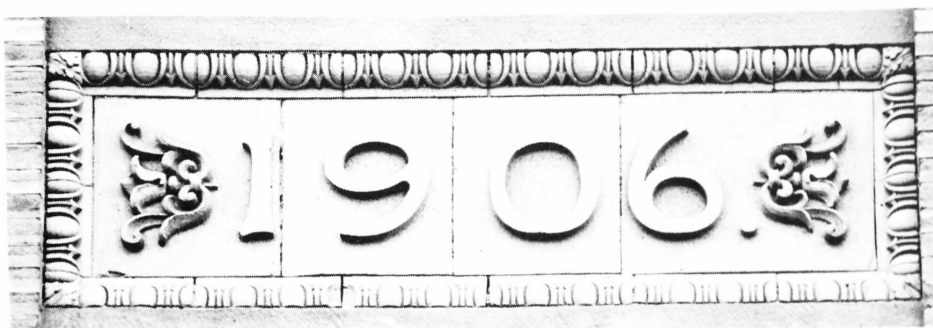
Symbols of two of Holyoke's now defunct industrial giants.
Top: The Merrick Thread Company, 209 Appleton Street.
Bottom: 60 Jackson Street.



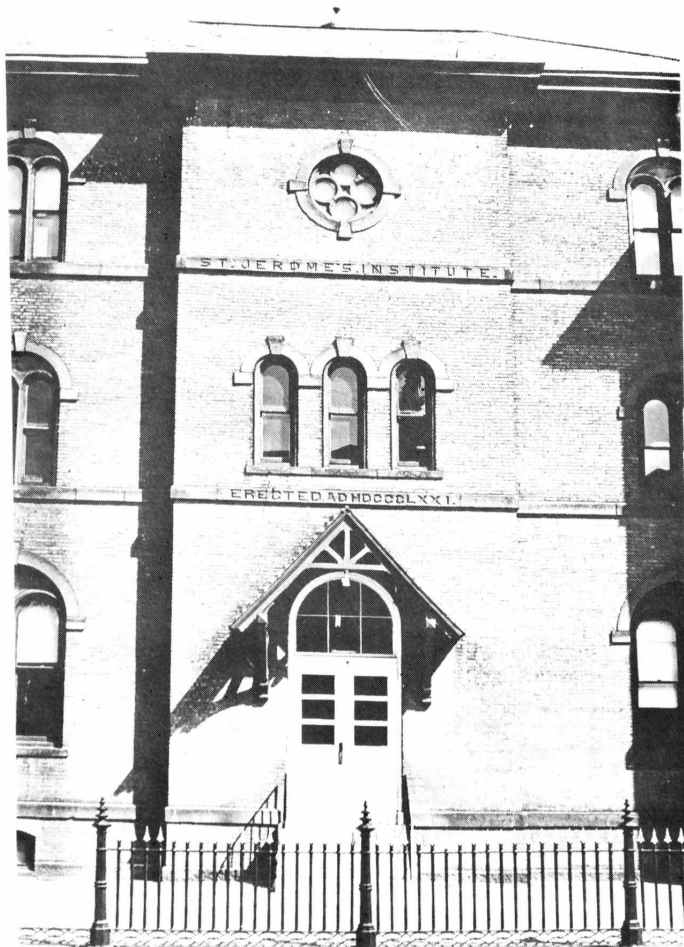
□ Handsome memorial to Mssr. Robert on a Main Street apartment block.

Rectory of the Sacred Heart Church, Maple Street.



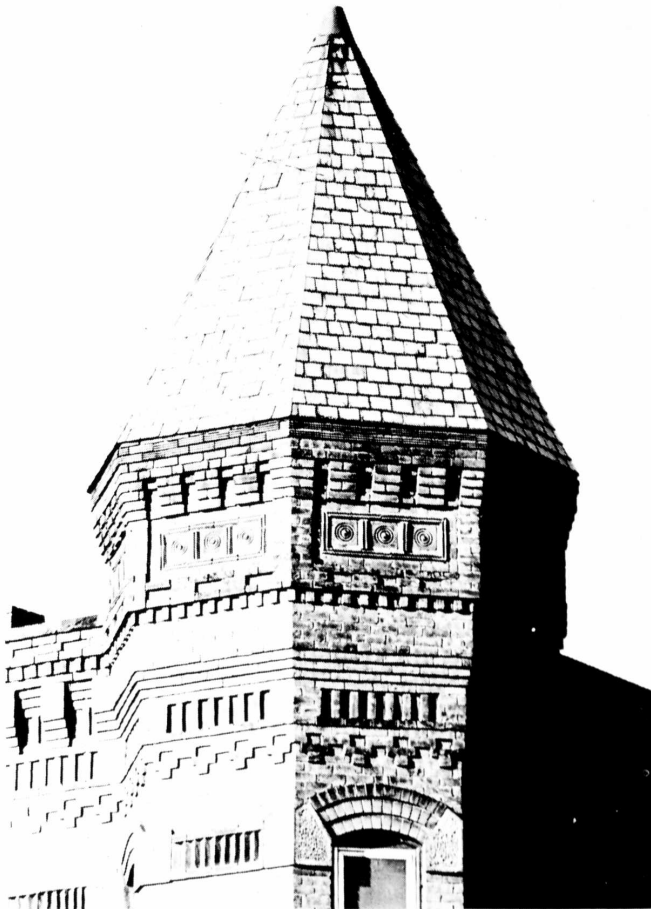


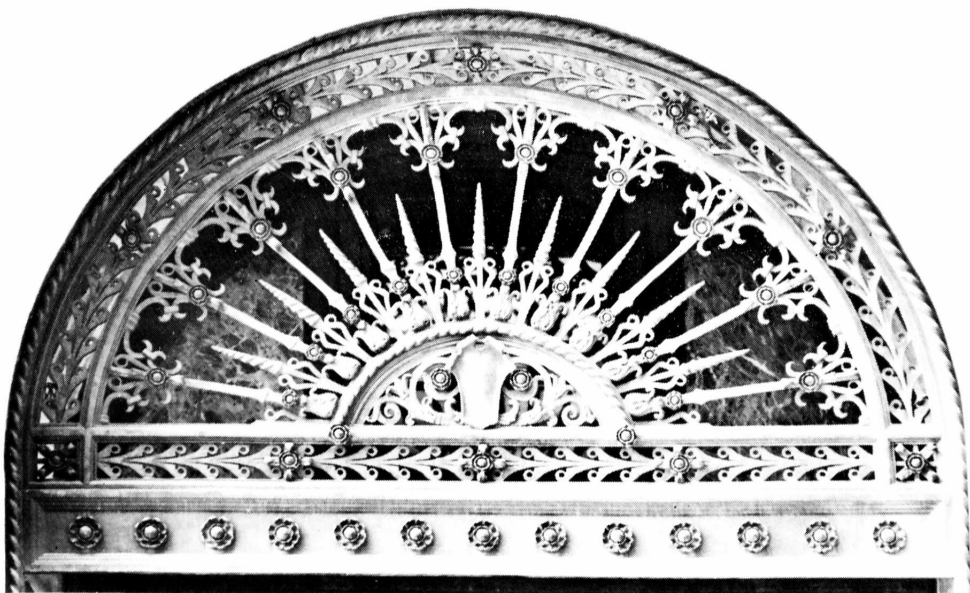
□ Identification stones from the front of the block at 276 High Street built by J. R. Smith.



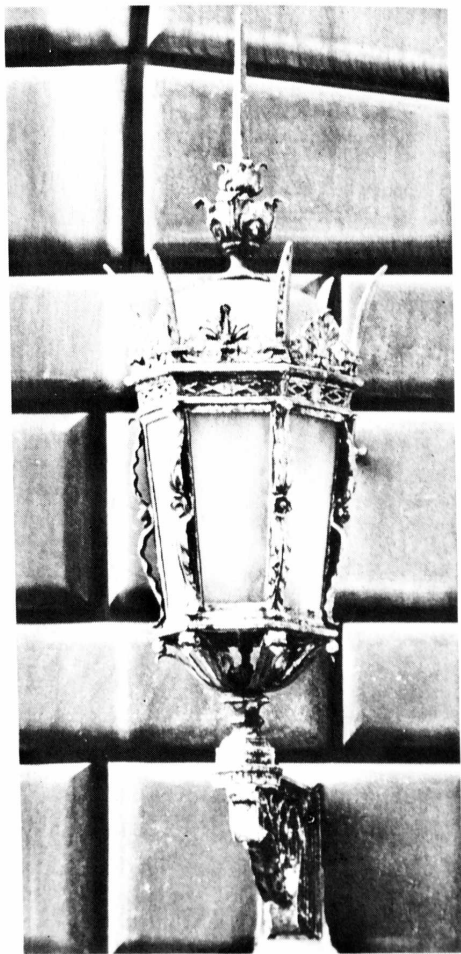
St. Jerome's Institute, MDCCCLXXI.

At least eight different brick patterns adorn this corner turret of a block at Essex and Walnut Streets.





□ Decorative ironwork above the main entrance door of the First Bank,
Suffolk Street, 1926.



Ornate doorway lamp, First Bank.



Like the figurehead of a ship,
this lady graces the Suffolk Street
entrance of the First Bank.



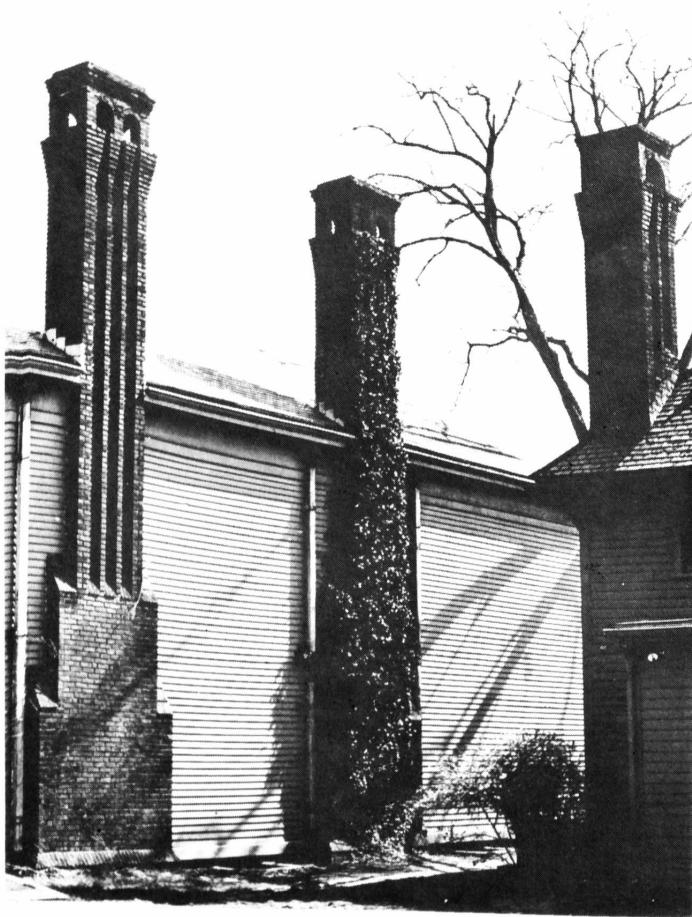
A busy Victorian roofline on a Dwight Street mansion.



Very few of these splendid
public safety fixtures remain today.

- Intricate detailing identifies the apartment block at 117 Essex Street.





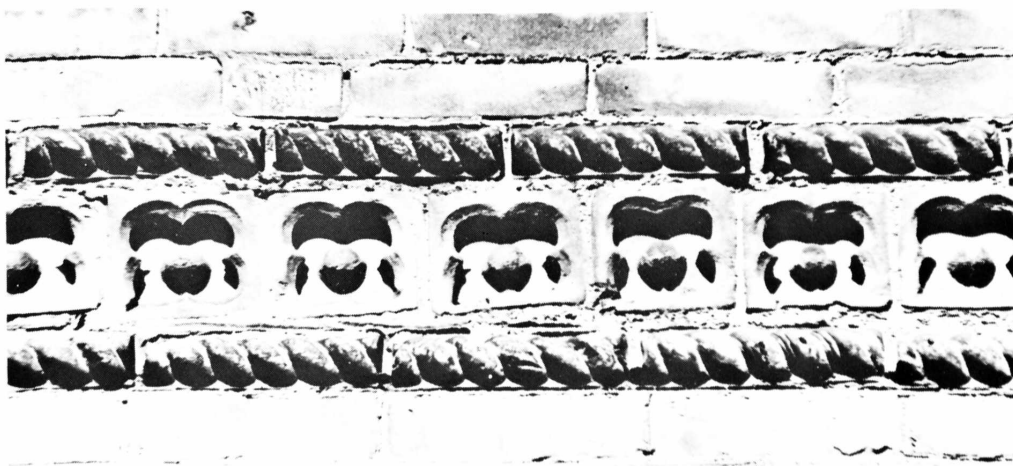
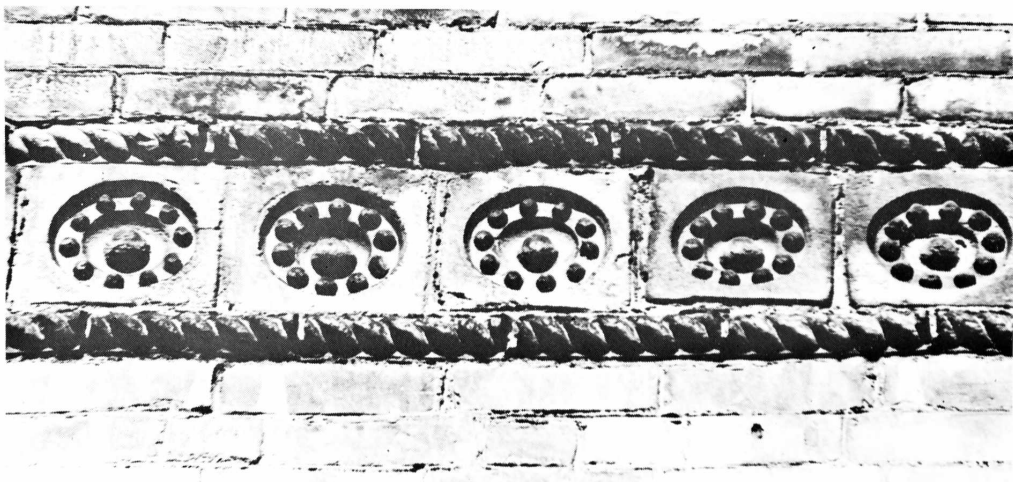
□ Muted chimneys in a row at Wistariahurst.



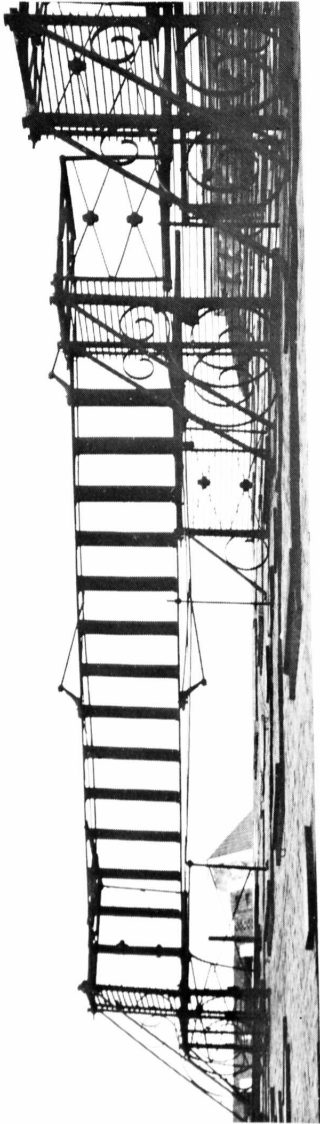
□ Commercial buildings, Main Street, between Mosher and Dwight Streets.



Main entrance of the old Linden Paper Company, 61 Jackson Street.



Characteristic decorative brickwork.
Their appearance changes when viewed from different angles.



An artistically designed exit from a century past.

Appendix

- 2 ☐ Louis J. Rigali's business block at 341 High Street was built in 1887 and designed by Geo. P.B. Alderman. Mr. Rigali lived at 20 Brown Avenue.
- 7 ☐ This three-story apartment bock at 154 Walnut Street was built by Philander Moore, a Holyoke businessman. Mr. Moore lived on Fairfield Avenue near the corner of Northampton Street.
- 8 ☐ This apartment block was designed and built by George P.B. Alderman in 1890. Mr. Alderman worked as an architect in Holyoke for many years and was responsible for the design of a multitude of fine local buildings. Many of the structures and details pictured in this book are his work. Born in 1862, he first worked as an apprentice in the architectural office of James A. Clough, but opened his own office in his home on Pearl Street in 1885, and by 1887 was located at 271 High Street. He later took his brother Henry H. Alderman into partnership with him, the firm becoming Geo. P.B. Alderman & Co., Architects, with offices in a new building (designed by Alderman, of course) at 437 High Street. (This building still stands and is presently part of the Salem Horn furniture store.)
- 13 ☐ The Second Baptist Church, at the corner of Appleton and Walnut Streets, was built in 1885. The Church was first located at the corner of Main and Mosher Streets. The earliest building was built in 1855, and was rebuilt in the same location after a fire in 1863.
- 15 ☐ The High Street block of Anthony Kelly, a South Holyoke businessman, was designed by Geo. P.B. Alderman.
- 18 ☐ Whiting Street built this building about 1880, several years before his death. The building was designed to have four street-level stores, with the upper floors used for office purposes. Whiting Street was a Holyoke farmer who prospered during the industrial expansion of the city through association with such successful companies as Parsons Paper.
- 24 ☐ The Guyott Bros. (Theodore and Victor Guyott) first built the Guyott House hotel in 1885 at the corner of High and Division Streets, and then in 1892 erected the four story commercial building pictured on pages 24-27 adjacent to it. Both buildings were designed by Geo. P.B. Alderman.
- 29 ☐ The Mater Dolorosa Church, constructed 1901, was designed by Geo. P.B. Alderman.
- 30 ☐ Geo. P.B. Alderman designed the main Steiger's building in 1899, and also the adjacent addition (1902). Mr. Alderman also designed Steiger's stores in Springfield and New Bedford.
- 31 ☐ Thomas S. Childs' shoe store was formerly located at 85 Dwight Street, and known as The Corser Shoe Store. The present building was designed by Geo. P.B. Alderman.

- 34 ☐ The residence which is now part of the Holyoke Y.M.C.A. was built in 1878 by the Holyoke Water Power Company for its agent, William Chase. The architect for the building was H.F. Kilburn of New York, who also worked on the completion of the City Hall. Kilburn started work on the City Hall in October, 1874, and did drawings for the tower, the grand hall, and the interior finish work. Edward S. Waters, who succeeded Chase as agent, occupied the home until 1904, when it was sold by the Water Power Company to the Brooks family.
- 45 ☐ The Essex was built in 1888 by Joel S. Webber, one of the principals in the firm of Beebe, Webber & Co., woolen manufacturers at 639 Main Street.
Frank Beebe, of the same firm, built The Maplewood in 1889-90, one block away from The Essex at the corner of Maple and Essex Streets. (This building also still stands and now houses Holyoke Family Services.)
- 46 ☐ The Massasoit was designed and built by Ashley B. Tower in 1890. Mr. Tower was a member of the architectural firm of D.H. & A.B. Tower, who had offices at 7 Main Street in the Flatiron Block. This firm was renowned as being the foremost architects of paper mills in the world, and was either solely responsible for or had a hand in all of those built in Holyoke. Ashley B. Tower became principal in the firm in 1891, after a partnership of fourteen years.
- 49 ☐ This house was designed and constructed in 1890 by Casper Ranger, building contractor and lumber dealer, as a home for his family of ten children. The house was occupied by the Ranger family until 1917, when it was sold to the Holy Cross Church for use as a rectory. The house is presently still used for this purpose. The Holyoke Water Power Company donated the triangle of land adjacent to his home bounded by Appleton, Suffolk, and Sycamore Streets to the city for development as a park.
- 56 ☐ The Dillon block was built in several sections, the first being constructed in 1875, by Thomas Dillon. Mr. Dillon conducted both a grocery and an undertaking business in the building, and also engaged extensively in real estate development.
- 57 ☐ This double house was designed in 1891 by Geo. P.B. Alderman for Thomas M. Cleary, a wholesale liquor dealer doing business at 120 Maple Street.
- 57 ☐ Michael J. Finn was a grocer and also a dealer in coal and wood at 95 High Street.
- 60 ☐ This massive residence was built for William E. Syms, manager of the Syms and Dudley Paper Company. Mr. Syms occupied the house on August 1, 1890. The house was designed by architect James A. Clough, who was active in Holyoke for many years. Clough was first a carpenter and builder, but after studying at M.I.T. opened his own architectural office in 1877. In 1890, William B. Reid became a partner in the firm. Clough resided at 999 Hampden Street in a home he designed himself, and had offices at 247 High Street, also in a building of his own design. (The building still stands, although it has been greatly altered, and is now occupied by Ed Moriarty's Family Shoe Store.) Some of Clough & Reid's more notable works in Holyoke are the Holyoke Public Library, the Ball Block (now Holyoke National Bank), and the Marble Hall building of John Delaney (now gone, but which stood for many years at the northeast corner of High and Dwight Streets).

- 63 ☐ The apartment and business block of Clovis Robert, real estate businessman and agent of the Holyoke and Westfield Railroad, at Main and Cabot Streets was designed by Geo. P.B. Alderman.
- 65 ☐ Josiah R. Smith, a Holyoke grocer, built the eight story block now commonly known as the Prew Building in 1906.
- 68 ☐ This building was designed in 1926 for the Hadley Falls Trust Company by the firm of Geo. P.B. Alderman & Co. Mr. Alderman was a director of the bank for many years.
- 73 ☐ This apartment block was built in 1889 by W. Howard Barlow, Holyoke businessman, who was at various times engaged in the grocery, contracting and livery business.
- 74 ☐ Wistariahurst, the home of William Skinner, founder of the Skinner Silk Mills, was moved to Holyoke in 1874. Mr. Skinner had first built the home in Williamsburg, adjacent to the manufacturing operations which he had established there on the Mill River. A great flood occurred in 1874, destroying the mill buildings, and Mr. Skinner rebuilt his operations in Holyoke. He had his home moved from Williamsburg and rebuilt on its present site. The photograph shows chimneys of the music hall, which was added to the building by Belle Skinner in 1913.
- 75 ☐ The building at the left (20-22 Main Street) was built by Edwin C. Swift in 1886, and for many years housed the Swift and Co. wholesale meat distribution operations. An enlarged detail of top of the building appears on page 9. The building on the right (24-26 Main Street) was built in 1884 by George Nightingale, a dealer in paper and paper stock. Mr. Nightingale lived at 101 Lincoln Street.

